most of which seemed to have been eaten to the ground by unidentified coleopterous larvae; so I took my *aurinia* females home again where they subsequently deposited over 800 ova. Most of the resulting larvae are at present hibernating in their thick winter webs, and as I have learned that the food-plant appears to be flourishing once again at the Guildford site, I hope to release them there next year.

One of these larvae, however, instead of hibernating matured rapidly (under virtually natural conditions and in spite of unfavourable weather) and pupated on 10th September. A male butterfly, somewhat duskier than typical examples from the locality, finally emerged on 1st October. During the last few days of September, after the pupa had darkened, ground frost became prevalent, so I brought the sleeved pupa inside at night. This was the only interference on my part. I have not heard before of *aurinia* producing a second emergence under these conditions. — Dr. C. J. Luckens, 52 Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton, SO2 4JG.

A New Locality for Phyllonorycter nigrescentella Logan in Kent. — On Sunday, 14th July, 1974 my family and I accompanied John and Jean Roche on a brief trip to the Darent valley, perhaps the only known locality in Kent for *Phyllonorycter nigrescentella*. We soon located the mines of this species in the lower leaves of Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*). By this late date, however, many of the second generation of adults were evidently already out and many empty pupa cases were projecting from the mines. A number of apparently tenented mines was collected and I was delighted to be able to breed a fine series of this very attractive moth.

Since the foodplant is so common and the above mentioned habitat nothing out of the ordinary I made a note to search my own area of Sittingbourne for the moth. A brief search was duly carried out in the late autumn of 1974 and in two out of the three areas looked at, the unmistakable mines were easily found. These were in tetrad TQ 85Z. However, I feel sure I haven't just stumbled on a local colony and I believe the moth is just overlooked in Kent. It would benefit others interested in this group to make a determined search for the mines in their own areas. The mines are usually on the lower leaves of plants growing in ditches or in hedgerows; places where a degree of shade from higher foliage is given. Often several adjacent leaflets are mined, and very often the mines are buried deep in the grass. — Dr. I. A. Watkinson, 166 Sterling Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Nymphalis polychloros L. (Large Tortoishell) in Sussex in 1974. — At 5.45 p.m. on 6th July this year at least two specimens of *Nymphalis polychloros* L. were seen by my family and myself while we were walking in an area of heath and light woodland in Sussex. My mother, who was some 100

yards ahead with my younger son, first noticed two large, tawny butterflies flying round a small tree. One of these flew into some surrounding oaks, but the other fluttered down to a patch of bare ground, and sat basking with spread wings. Both my parents are reliable lepidopterists, so when I heard my father relaying the information that they could see a large Tortoiseshell, I covered those intervening 100 yards at a speed that would have been the envy of any Olympic sprinter!

When I arrived the butterfly had moved to the trunk of a small tree, and indeed proved to be a superb female *polychloros*. Her wingspread must have measured a good 2½ inches, and the late afternoon sun caught all the russet-gold hairiness of abdomen and inner wing margin. The six of us reverently admired her while she displayed there, until she eventually flew down to the bare earth again for a minute, then round in a wide circle to join her fellow in the oaks.

After a wait of about 20 minutes I actually heard the next *polychloros* before I saw it as it flew past with an audible click of wings. This time it circled without settling, and then "struck" a large cherry tree at full speed.

My parents were able to visit the locality regularly over the next few weeks, and in fact the following day saw another, rather more tattered specimen sunning on a post at about 12.10 p.m. In spite of fairly close observation, both by my parents and myself, no further Large Tortoiseshells have been seen for certain to date; though on 20th July my father thought he saw one fly up from a path in the same area, and on 23rd July my mother also records a probable but unconfirmed sighting.

I hope these butterflies may prove to be the nucleus of a thriving colony in this very suitable area. I await next spring with considerable anticipation. — Dr. C. J. LUCKENS, 52 Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton, SO2 4JG.

SOME LATE DATES IN 1974. — In spite of a very lean autumn for lepidoptera in general there were quite a number of interesting late dates for species in the m.v. trap here as follows in chronological order, some being no doubt second broods: — 4th September, *Campaea margaritata* L: ; 8th September, *Unca tripartita* Hufn.; 9th September, *Epione repandaria* Hufn.; 13th September, *Mamestra brassicae* L.; 14th September, *Cryphia perla* D. & Schiff., and *Euproctis similis* Fuessl.; 16th September, *Crocallis elinguaria* L.; 17th September, *Cleora rhomboidaria* D. & Schiff.; 19th September, *Sterrha aversata* L.; 26th September, *Amphipyra tragopogonis* Clerck; 15th October, *Hypena proboscidalis* L.; 18th October, *Euschesis comes* Hübn.; 6th November, *Dysstroma truncata* Hufn.; 8th November, *Plusia gamma* L.; 21st November, *Thera variata* D. & Schiff. — C. G. M. DE WORMS, Three Oaks, Shore's Road, Woking.